

It is time for the annual report on insect new issues. In calendar 2009 we had a slight increase in the number of new insect stamps but still the second lowest number in the past 14 years.. I measure the number of new issues by the height of the stack of 3x5 index cards, one per stamp, that I accumulate each year. (20mm = about 100 cards). Local and known illegal issues are not included.

1996	80mm = ~400 stamps	2003	91mm = ~455 stamps
1997	119mm = ~595 stamps	2004	54mm = ~270 stamps
1998	125mm = ~625 stamps	2005	68mm = ~340 stamps
1999	133mm = ~665 stamps	2006	63mm = ~315 stamps
2000	165mm = ~825 stamps	2007	62mm = ~310 stamps
2001	191mm = ~955 stamps	2008	37mm = ~185 stamps
2002	122mm = ~610 stamps	2000	47mm = ~235 stamps

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### Monarch Problems

The 64c US stamp issued May 17, 2010 for non-machineable sized letters shows the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus* L., NYM, Danainae). With this butterfly the male has fine black lines on the veins of the wings as seen on the stamp. The female has much thicker black lines. However, the male should show in the middle of the hind wings a small spot of black that is known as the androconia or scent pouch. Not being either male or female, the monarch shown is a gynandromorph.

The second problem is with the special cancel for the Monarch Butterfly Station in Monarch , MT. Here the butterfly shown is the viceroy (*Limenitis archippus* Cramer, NYM, Limenitidinae), rather than the monarch. The cancel clearly shows the line through the hind wing, diagnostic of the viceroy as opposed to the monarch.

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